

Hon. G. M. Bibb

Oration

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AN ORATION,
COMMEMORATIVE OF
LAYING THE CORNER STONE
OF THE
COLLEGE EDIFICE

164 C. 11

OF THE
LOUISVILLE MEDICAL INSTITUTE,

On the 22nd of February, 1838.

BY THE HON. GEORGE M. BIBB.

PUBLISHED BY REQUEST OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
AND MEDICAL FACULTY.

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[CORRESPONDENCE.]

LOUISVILLE, February 23rd, 1838.

Hon. GEO. M. BIBB:

Dear Sir—Having, in conformity to the request of the President and Board of Managers of the Louisville Medical Institute, delivered an Oration upon the close of the ceremony of laying the corner-stone of the edifice destined for the Institute, allow me in the same character, in which I solicited that service, to return you my own, and the thanks of the Board, for the very able and appropriate discourse, which you delivered upon that occasion, and to solicit a copy for publication. We are aware of the additional trouble, which by this request, we are about to superadd to that which you have already exerted so gratifyingly to the Board and your very numerous auditors, and so creditably to yourself; but we trust, that the spirit of kindness, and of patriotism, which animated you in the composition and delivery of the discourse, will induce you to incur the trouble of furnishing the copy, now solicited for publication.

Very respectfully, your obd't. serv't.,

JOHN ROWAN,

Pres't. of the Board of Managers of the Louisville Med. In.
Hon. GEO. M. BIBB.

—
LOUISVILLE MEDICAL INSTITUTE. }
February 23rd, 1838. }

CHANCELLOR BIBB:

Dear Sir—At a meeting of the Medical Faculty, this evening, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Faculty be presented to Chancellor Bibb, for his eloquent, appropriate and impressive Oration, commemorative of laying the corner-stone of the college edifice of the Louisville Medical Institute, and that a copy be requested for publication.

In communicating this resolution of the Faculty permit me to add my individual sense of the excellence of your oration,

and expressions of regard and consideration with which I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your ob't. serv't.,

L. P. YANDELL, M. D., *Dean, &c.*

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LOUISVILLE, February, 26th, 1838.

*To the Pres't., Trustees, and Gentlemen of the Faculty
of the Louisville Medical Institute:*

The thanks which you have been pleased to signify by your resolutions of the 23rd inst., communicated in terms also so very kind by two of your body, are received with great sensibility. The encomiums bestowed on the address, are strong evidences of your kind feelings for me. Whatever of merit may be found in the address grows out of the richness of the subject and the occasion, rather than out of any embellishment from me. Seeing the importance of the Medical Institute, and its connexion with literature, philanthropy, the substantial interests and the character of this city, I have labored with my utmost thought to present the connexion clearly to the understandings of others.

That those, who could have done more justice to the subject, are contented with my efforts, is a pleasing reward of my labors.

Herewith you have a copy of the address as requested.

Accept for yourselves, one and all, the assurance of my high regard.

GEO. M. BIBB.

JUDGE BIBB'S ORATION.

*Mr. President and Trustees of the Medical Institute,
Mayor and Councilmen of the City,
and fellow-citizens of Louisville:*

The corporation of Louisville, is a species of government within a government, more especially charged with the internal police of the city, the well-being of the inhabitants and sojourners.

The city has founded and endowed the Louisville Medical Institute: and we have this day witnessed the ceremonial of laying the corner stone of the edifice.

Invited by the President, Trustees and Faculty of the Institute to address you on this occasion, I propose to offer some thoughts,

In the first place, upon the general laws of Nature, the observance of which tend to the prosperity, happiness and duration of cities as well as States; the neglect of which produce misery and destruction:

Secondly, upon the dangers to which Louisville is especially exposed according to those immutable laws of nature:

Thirdly, upon the safe-guards against those dangers:

Fourthly, upon this day of celebration:

Lastly, upon the importance of this Medical Institute, the advantages of this location, and the effect of this establishment upon the destiny of this city.

By Nature and Nature's God, the self-existing benevolent producer of all things, man has been compounded of matter and mind, and placed upon this earth, to perform his part in the system of the universe.

He is subjected, by the very nature of his being and composition, to certain general laws of universal obligation, from which he cannot escape, nor divest himself: they adhere to him individually; they follow him into society; they surround

and act upon all individuals, communities, nations and potentates, like the atmosphere which we breathe: they are stamped upon the being of man as the immutable laws of his nature and happiness.

Composed of matter man is subjected, in that, to the general laws of matter, to the action of the material elements, to wounds, diseases and dissolution.

Composed of mind he is subjected to certain moral laws resulting from the nature and the capacities of intellect, and the sum of the faculties of mind, with which he is endowed, the purposes for which they were bestowed, and the accountability therefore to his creator and giver, who is in himself an intellectual essence of perfect moral excellence.

Man was not formed for a mere selfish circumstance; not like an individual of the vegetable kingdom, not a monochord; but for society, and for benefitting his fellow-men. Like a full stringed instrument, he is capable of melody, sympathy, harmony, and of discord too; it is the province of mind to arrange the parts, and regulate the movement, to the end that concord may be effected. The condition of his existence, his wants, his infirmities remind him continually of his dependence on others, his claims upon them and their claims upon him. In childhood he is helpless and in his nurse's arms; in manhood bold, adventurous, forming schemes of happiness, of love, of friendship, of fortune, and of fame; in old age he is again dependent on the good offices of his kindred and friends. From his first to his last breath he stands in need of the services of his fellow-men.

Some there are, whose powers are better adapted to bodily labor, others to intellectual pursuits; and even there, some are better fitted for one department of science and some for another. The females formed with delicate beauty and grace, adorned with retreating diffidence and bashful modesty, are not designed by nature for laborious exercises, but to act their parts within doors; to grace the fire-side, to console, enchant, and render home delectable.

Manual labor produces subsistence, and the implements, fabrics, and materials for interchange and commerce. Intel-

lectual cultivation tends to increase the sum and variety of production, by directing labor right, saving unnecessary toil and time, and producing more perfect fabrics. Muscular labor and mental labor stand in need of mutual aid and co-operation. Manual labor, the arts, the sciences, are all connected by indissoluble ties. The sailor and the helm are instruments for navigating the ship; and they must be governed by the skill of the pilot for effecting safe navigation. So of all other occupations: the laborers and tillers of the earth, the artificers, the artists, the cultivators of intellect and morals; from the poorest to the richest, from the peasant to the chief magistrate, all, all are mutually connected constituent parts of one whole or system of society. All are mutually useful, the one to the other, and co-operating in the long series of labors, bodily and mental, by which the order, peace, happiness and stability of the community are to be accomplished.

It is the province of intellect to trace the sources of these dependencies, the moral causes and effects, influences and benefits, the nature and extent of those mutual obligations upon individuals, families, communities, states, nations and potentates.

By tracing these moral causes and effects, it is demonstrated that individual is morally bound to individual, family to family, community to community, and nation to nation by certain social duties and natural obligations, in the great system of production and exchange, so that their respective products of body and mind, of nature and art, may be sent around the world in exchange for all the luxuries of nature and art, and the elegancies of genius and science which the world supplies.

The God of Nature has willed that man should be distinguished from all other animals; and that this characteristic distinction should be in superiority of intellect; marked by turning his eyes to heaven, by a power of speech not limited as in other animals, but capable of communicating his thoughts, his moral feelings; of describing his researches and discoveries, of embodying the operations of his mind and handing them down to posterity.

Men are made by nature, not only for society but for civil and political government also. Without these, man could exist as a savage only, but could never attain that improved happier condition to which progressive intellectual cultivation is constantly tending.

This progressive intellectual improvement and happiness, depends in a great degree upon the good or ill administration of the civil and political government of each particular community, State or nation.

That government is most conducive to those great ends of intellectual improvement and increased happiness, when the administration, that is to say, the directors and managers of the body politic, are practically identified in interest and feeling, with the great body of the members of the community. The government is abused and perverted when the power of a majority, oppresses the particular interests of a minority, by partial burthens and exactions to benefit the particular interests of the majority. It is more especially abused and wickedly perverted, when the directors and officers of the body politic, draw a line of distinction between the government (that is themselves) and the people; make the government one body and the people another, and provide for the government to the neglect of the people; thereby producing the abomination of a government as an antagonist body to the body of the people: the government providing for itself (i. e. the rulers) and devouring the substance of the people. By such perversion the government, a body politic, created by the people for their safety and general welfare, becomes a natural body composed of the rulers and office-holders, distinct from the people, exalted above their creators, using the people as if they were the property of the rulers. By such perversion and breach of trust, those appointed and trusted to be the shepherds become the wolves and devourers. Such doings belong to the antiquated doctrines, that kings ruled by divine right; that the multitude were born to be the hewers of wood and drawers of water for their rulers; that a precious noble few are born "booted and spurred prepared to ride over the multitude by the grace of God." Such false notions have been exploded by the progress of reason and Science. True

Philosophy has established and proclaimed the principles engrafted into our Declaration of Independence, and the bill of rights of the State Constitutions; that the people are not the property of the government, but its Creator; that government is instituted by the people for their benefit and happiness; that the public officers are created for the advantage of the people; that public offices are but trustees and servants, not the masters, of the people.

Government is a moral science, and best understood by resolving it into its constituent elements and examining the component parts, their proper relations, duties and dependencies.

Cities, states and nations are composed of families; and families are composed of individuals. The elements of a family are the husband, the wife, the children and the servants. The comfortable subsistence and happiness of a family, require subordination, order, and distribution of the parts which each is capable and fitted to perform in relation to the end. This is good management or economy. As the government of a city includes many families, order, distribution of the parts, subordination and economy are necessary to the comfortable subsistence and general welfare, which is the end and aim for which government is instituted. In this association of families under political government, the laborer, and the philosopher, the artificer and the merchant, the muscular action, and the mental action, are all necessary, mutually acting and re-acting upon the several parts; and by good or ill management produce happiness or misery, stability or dissolution. The rich and the poor must perform their respective parts. Neither wealth, nor power, can dissolve the mutual dependence, moral duties and obligations which nature has ordained and established between man and his fellow-man.

"Let not ambition mock their useful toils

"Their homely joys, and destiny obscure;

"Nor grandeur hear, with a disdainful smile,

"The short but simple annals of the poor."

The rich to-day may be poor to-morrow. The poor by industry and frugality may become rich. The proud may be

afflicted by disease, or unforeseen casualty. No family knows how soon the social duties and kind offices of the fireman, the nurse, the physician, or the sexton may be in requisition.

Solomon, who inherited forty-six thousand tons weight of silver and of gold, with vast materials of value for building the temple, together with a kingdom of great wealth and power; the wise, the favored of God, was not exempted by all these from the general laws of nature. He became enfeebled and dependent upon his fellow-men to seat him upon his throne.

The mighty Cæsar, the orator and the historian, the conqueror of his country's enemies, and of his country's liberty; who did bestride the world as a Colossus, had a fever when in Spain;

"'Tis true, this God did shake—

"His coward lips did from their color fly,

"And that same eye whose bend did awe the world

"Did loose his lustre: I did hear him groan:

"Ay, and that tongue of his that bade the Romans

"Mark him, and write his speeches in their looks

"Alas! it cried, give me some drink Titinius,

"As a sick girl."

Let no man presume upon his wealth or his power to hold himself independent of his fellow men, nor treat unmercifully, a bold peasantry, their country's pride. The abuse of greatness is when it disjoins mercy from power.

A city or community is deeply interested in the due performance, by all its members, of their respective parts. The honest cobbler who performs his duty faithfully, is more worthy in the eye of reason, than the selfish politician who sacrifices his country's good to his own sinister purposes, or in the servile obedience to the discipline of party jugglers; and far more worthy than the partial or corrupt judge.

"Honor and shame from no condition rise,

"Act well *your* part, there all the honor lies."

Governments have their moral tendencies and their evil tendencies. The latter are to be particularly watched and fenced against.

In republics, the evil tendencies are visible sooner or later, according to circumstances. A superabundance of productive industry, upon which an active commercial state of society is founded, has a tendency to divide society into three classes, first, men of great wealth, secondly, men of abject poverty, thirdly, men enjoying a happy mediocrity between these two extremes.

Great wealth, like excess of strength, if not controlled by intellectual and moral cultivation, disdains the dictates of propriety, and the authority of reason, and produces insolence; abject poverty, if not under the control of intellect and morals, like excessive weakness and deformity, sours the temper and begets baseness. Insolence and baseness are the ordinary sources of disorders in the body politic: the one running into every species of audacious guilt in indulgence of the animal passions, the other sinking into every kind of fraud and low mischief. In such a state of population the security of the community consists in having a sufficient number of men, whose condition and morals, render them averse to wrong and injustice; so that they may prove too powerful for either of the extremes, or for both combined. When this intermediate class, which balances and regulates the machinery of government, either does not exist in sufficient number, or existing, is deceived by demagogues, an outrageous democracy takes place; an irresponsible government by the physical force of numbers, the oppressors of virtue, and munificent rewarders of vice, the confiscators and plunderers of property and vested rights; constituting in all "that worst of tyrants an usurping crowd." The established magistracy and every regular function of the constitutional government becomes enfeebled, perverted or abolished; the men who have effected the change become masters of the commonwealth, "until this brutal force is overwhelmed in its own fury."

To this evil tendency the city of Louisville is liable in a very eminent degree, because of her local position, the natural advantages which she possesses for extended and profitable commerce, now well grown and increasing; because of

the present large population compressed within her limits, hereafter to be greatly increased in numbers and density, as well stationary as sojourners and itinerants, boatmen, deck passengers, and idlers without means, who from laziness, bad habits, and poverty, are to be subsisted, honestly or dishonestly, upon the property and industry of the resident population. Let us profit by the experience which history has afforded at so cheap a rate to us, and applying that wisdom to the circumstances in which we are placed, avoid the catastrophe to which the evil, if not guarded, inevitably tends.

Other evil tendencies of a republic there are, which need not be particularly recited at this time, because they, in common with those recited, spring from one common cause and require the same remedy.

The primary cause of the diseases of the body politic is in the loose indulgence of the animal appetites and passions, to the great neglect of intellectual and moral cultivation.

Man as an animal has appetites and passions in common with other animals: but being endowed with superior intellect and capacities, he is capable of being the best or the worst of animals. Softened by the offices and duties of social life; tamed and subdued by intellectual cultivation and sound morals, to the dictates of justice and virtue, he is the noblest; but rude and undisciplined he is the very worst of animals. Armed with intellect, craft, courage, and superior means, if unsubjected to morality and to justice, man will wickedly pervert his superior means, and become cruel and abominably shameless in the indulgence of his appetites and passions and the most impious of monsters. For what is more detestable than armed cruelty, immorality, and injustice. But justice and morality are the foundations of political society, and especially of a republic. Laws are instituted to declare what is just, and it is the duty of government to provide effectually all proper means to have the laws obeyed and executed.

Ignorance, animal appetites and passions are the poisons; the remedies consist in intellectual cultivation; in knowledge, science, and morals; so that the body politic be subjected to the government of reason, to the judgment of mind, to the

dictates of virtue. The purest happiness is the reward of a virtuous life.

According to the rule prescribed by that intellectual moral essence who created man and compounded him of matter and mind, it is the province of mind to command, and the province of matter to obey. Such is the order and economy of the constitution of man, necessary to be observed by all men who desire to excel other animals, and not, like them, to spend their lives "*prona et ventri obedientia*," ("prone and obedient to appetite.") If some men so act as that the body seems to command the soul, such have perverted the order of nature and are grossly depraved. For such perversion and disobedience, nature has inflicted the sting of disease, disgrace and misery. An individual man may be considered as a little community, consisting of his mind and the various members of his body. The proper health and happiness of this little community, depends greatly on the observance of this law of nature, that mind shall govern matter, that all the parts and members of the body shall perform their proper functions in due subordination to the sway of reason. But should the subordinate parts of the body rebel, usurp authority, impeach and dethrone reason, the order of nature would be subverted, and this little community of a human body would fall into disorder, disease and ruin.

So the greater community of a city, or a state, being a collection of individuals associated under a political government, instituted with intent to provide for the good order and general welfare of all the members of the community, the same ordinance and law of nature, requires that mind shall govern; that the administration of the constitution and laws shall be committed to public officers of intelligence and virtue. Men ignorant, licentious and knavish can no more accomplish the proper end and aim of a government instituted to establish justice and promote the general welfare, than the happiness of a single individual could be accomplished, were he to surrender his soul to be commanded by the gross and blind appetites of his body.

As in our government the great body of the members of the community, participate in the elections, and through

them, mediately, in legislation, in appointments to all public officers; as from the body of the people, all these officers are to be elected and appointed, it is of the very first importance that the great body of the people should be educated, so that they may perform their parts wisely at elections, by choosing those best qualified, and so that the community may be supplied with a sufficient number of men, worthy by their intelligence, virtue and fitness to fill the public offices.

In politics, we ought to begin by operating on the intellectual faculties of man, on his moral powers, on his mind. Youth is the season for subduing the animal to proper discipline; to cultivate the mind, to inculcate virtue, to establish good habits. "Just as the twig is bent the tree inclines." "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart therefrom."

A republican government is founded on the principles, that the people are capable of understanding their rights and duties; that they have virtue to support and maintain them; that they are capable, through the medium of representation, to govern themselves. Such a government cannot exist, usefully, and permanently, unless supported by intelligence and virtue in the general mass of its citizens. History abounds with examples of popular governments which were comparatively ephemeral, for want of sufficient intelligence and virtue in the people. We need go no further than to the broken fragments of the republics attempted in Mexico and South America now groaning under the miseries of ignorance and misrule. Demosthenes, interrogated as to the first, second and third requisites of an orator, answered, action; action; action. Were I interrogated as to the first, second and third requisites for the success of the republic, I would in the honest conviction of my judgment, answer, Education; Education; virtuous Education.

A system of education should include schools in small and convenient precincts, wherein the rudiments of language, arithmetic, mathematics, geography, natural and moral philosophy and astronomy, could be acquired conveniently by every youth; with a University at some proper point, embracing the whole circle of science. Every government stands

in need of men of the first order of intelligence, skilled in the laws of nature and of nations, in the rights of peace and war, in the comities due between nations, in the great intercourse of the human family.

That which a government stands in need of for its proper efficacy and durability, should be provided for by the government. Kingly governments have provided for the machinery of royalty. Oligarchies have provided for the aristocracy. A mixed government, composed of Kings, Lords and Commons takes care to provide for the machinery of royalty and the nobility; leaving the Commons to be pensioned by the prime minister to do the King's service. The spirit of such governments is breathed into the enactment and construction of the laws. The spirits of the people are subdued by habit, fraud, or force to submit.

A republic should consult her spirit, her elementary principles, her machinery and wants; and provide by law for a due supply of aliment. Education, virtuous education, alone can supply the aliment of a republic. Education can raise the genius, mend the heart and make mankind in conscious virtue bold.

Education, the arts, sciences and morals, can raise a city to greatness and renown: can exalt a commonwealth above her sister States, and impart blessings to the nations of the earth.

But the want of moral cultivation; accumulated wealth and power used in pride, insolence, and oppression, in gluttony, debauchery and animal pleasures; with a corresponding poverty and baseness of the many, have been the causes of discontent, weakness, bloodshed, convulsion, subjection to a grievous yoke, of disorder and dissolution. They have been the primary and secondary causes of the destruction of the cities of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboim; (Zoar was respited for a time by the righteousness of Lot;) of Nineveh, Palmyra, Babylon, Persepolis, Heliopolis, Thebes, Tyre, and Carthage: of the overthrow and dissolution of the Kingdoms of Sesostris and Pharoah, of the Roman, Mexican, and Peruvian empires. Such causes proceeding from the want of

knowledge, science and morals, have subjected nations to obscurity and obloquy, characterized them in history under the reproachful appellation of Goths, Vandals, the "Dark Ages"—the "Barbarians," the "Savage Tribes."

The history of the rise, progress and downfall of nations, the gloomy and crumbled monuments of former opulence and splendor, which cities, now desolated, once possessed, ought to impress upon the mind these truths: that indulgence of animal appetites, to the neglect of mental cultivation and virtue, is a perversion of the order of nature, contrary to the purposes for which superior intellect was bestowed on man: that such perversion of the immutable laws prescribed to matter and mind by the creator of all things, have produced and will produce in the course of nature, sooner or later, the curse, dissolution, and destruction of cities, nations and empires.

The Legislature of this State by a recent enactment have provided out of the public treasury, and by voluntary taxation for support of a system of Education in convenient precincts throughout the State. The details of the act, the arguments urged in support, the votes it received from the representatives of the people, and its enactment into a law, are circumstances to be hailed, as evidences that the public sentiment is awakened to the intrinsic value of Education; as well as to the important bearing which it has upon the order, happiness, fame and destiny of this Commonwealth. This source of gratulation is heightened also, by the kindred feelings manifested so eminently to-day, by the citizens of Louisville, and of the country, who in number and in heart have hallowed the ceremonial of laying the corner stone of the Edifice of the Louisville Medical Institute. These are happy presages of a new era of mental cultivation in this State, and of the literary fame which, by enlarging and perfecting her institutions, Kentucky will superadd to her chivalrous deeds.

The ceremonial of laying this corner stone, is connected on this day and its annual return, with another grateful, joy-inspiring event. This day is the anniversary of the birth of Washington: first in war; first in peace; and first in the hearts of his countrymen. His fame is indissolubly connected with

the war for our independence with the mother country, in resistance to the injustice and oppression, which an audacious, insolent blind ministry attempted to rivet upon the colonies; vainly boasting that the war should be prosecuted until the colonies were humbled and prostrated at the footstool of the British throne. The result proves how blind this ministry were to the moral laws of providence; how little they understood of the patience, perseverance and gigantic energies of a people who understood their rights and were in conscious virtue bold; how little of the genius of Washington, and of the moral grandeur to which he would conduct such a people, who had chosen him for the general of their armies.

His fame is united to the establishment and acknowledgment of our Independence: with the more perfect union of the States under our federal constitution.

His fame is co-extensive with the Earth; more towering and durable than monuments of brass or marble; spotless and ever during as virtue. His good deeds live after his body is interred. His precepts and example are treasures to his countrymen and to the whole human family. His deeds and those of his compatriots have obtained the gratitude of millions, and will obtain the gratitude of millions yet unborn. His example stands on high, as a pillar of light, to conduct virtuous ambition to true glory, and nations to the true temple of liberty.

The ceremonial of laying this corner stone seems to be an opportune occasion for offering some considerations upon the importance of such an Institute; the aptitude of the location; the effect which the Institute is destined to have on the city of Louisville.

The importance of Education in general has already been considered. The importance of education in the healing art is the subject now to be particularly considered.

The Science of Medicine considered as a whole, includes—1st, Anatomy, or the structure of the human body, in all its parts, members, subdivisions and integuments, their connexions and sympathies—2nd, Physiology, or the doctrine of the constitution of the works of nature—3rd, Pathology, or the dis-

tempers, with their differences, causes, and effects, incident to the human family—4th, Surgery, or the art of curing by manual operation—5th, the practice of physic, or the treatment of the various distempers, to effect the cure—6th, Chemistry, or the process by which the different substances found in mixed bodies are separated—and 7th, *Materia Medica*, or the medicinal substances, their qualities and virtues, their use, singly, or mixed—within these respective spheres, the science of medicine looks to all wounds, fractures, dislocations; eruptions, obstructions and fevers; in short to all maladies external and internal, which this mortal coil of man is heir to, their localities, causes and remedies.

This recital alone, it would seem, was enough to make reasonable beings understand the very great importance of the science of medicine; and the deep stake, which families, communities, and indeed the whole human race, have in being assisted, comforted and protected by a competent number of men of science and experience in the healing art.

From time immemorial science in Medicine was considered of very great value, and those who had attained it, were held in very high admiration.

Æsculapius after his death received divine honors, because of his skill in the healing art. The ancients attributed his parentage and his education in that science, to the gods. His daughter Hygeia was held in great estimation and after her death was venerated as the goddess of health.

The accounts of the father and the daughter are mixed with much fable, but stripped of the fabulous and rightly understood, serve to shew that the ancients were deeply impressed with the importance of skilful prescriptions and good nursing to the sick: with the truth that great science in the medicinal art could be attained only by education of a very high order, was worthy of the highest honors. Yet this science as known in those days, compared with the improvements in the various departments known at the present day, may be said to have been then in its infancy.

The interesting worth of science in medicine, addresses itself to our most important interests, our tenderest affections

and sympathies: it comes home to our fire-sides. The mother bending over her sick child, feels but too keenly its importance. And whilst anxiously hoping for the success of the prescription, the tear starts in her eye, at the suggestion of her own imagination, that the discriminating powers of the physician may, perhaps, have mistaken the disease or the remedy.

Families have a deep interest that their prop and support shall not be snatched from them, and sent to an untimely grave by defect in the science of medicine.

Cities, communities and nations have a very important and continuing interest in the services of their useful and distinguished citizens, and that they shall not, in the full tide of their usefulness, fall untimely sacrifices to ignorance and empiricism in the healing art.

Pilgrimages are annually made to surgeons and physicians of renown. It ill becomes a city or State to trust alone to foreigners, for the protection of interests so dear to themselves and to the whole human family. They owe it as a duty to themselves, to benevolence, and to the great human family, to contribute their respective co-operations to the advancement and dissemination of the lights of medical science and knowledge.

This science must be wooed and won by study, diligence, patient investigation, discrimination and experience: by interchange of instances, treatments and results, amongst the learned in the profession.

One mind may attain greater science and experience in one department, another mind in another department; and so by mutual communication, aid and interchange, the best possible certainty and perfection in all the departments may be accomplished. No one mind of itself, unassisted, is capable of accomplishing such a task. The science is too vast and exalted, the range too extensive, the facts, results and deductions from them, are too various and complicated: the task requires the experience of successive generations, each successive generation profiting by the experience of those who have preceded.

Since the great Bacon introduced, (in the seventeenth century) the true method of interpreting nature, and the advancement of human knowledge, by the accurate collection of facts and instances, and by sound and genuine induction from them to discover truth, and so from one discovery to others, great progress in truth and human knowledge has been made. The science of medicine has profited greatly by this inductive method and more particularly in the present century. The progress in the science of medicine advancing now by the induction of truth and certainty of demonstration, from facts, instances, experiments and results, may be classed as one of the exact sciences. But much remains yet to be effected. New varieties, and even new characters of diseases, are making their appearance and marching from continent to continent (the Asiatic Cholera for example;) requiring new experiments and results, to ascertain the speediest and most effective remedies. The science of medicine is infinite, its advances towards perfection are progressive. Infinite wisdom belongs only to the infinite intellectual first cause of all things. Nevertheless it is the duty of man to exert his faculties to attain the highest possible reach of human knowledge and science, because, in so doing, he the better fulfils the purposes for which he was endowed with superior intellectual powers; increases his own happiness; and the more resembles, the perfect intellectual moral essence, his creator.

The Location of a Medical Institute at Louisville is peculiarly appropriate, justified, and demanded by considerations of the highest importance, to the utility and success of the Institute, to the city and to humanity.

Nature has said there shall be a great city at this point; legislatures have said there may be cities at other places.

Louisville is situated in the great valley of the Mississippi, abounding in the treasures of nature, in the earth and upon its surface, and in the bounties which fertility of soil and variety of climates offer to the industry of man. It is on the fair Ohio at the great rapids or falls of this river, in latitude thirty-nine degrees six minutes North. These falls divide

the navigation of the Ohio into the upper and the lower, assigning the respective divisions to vessels of different classes and capacities, like the meeting of head and tide water in other countries, although the division is not so exact and impassable in all respects. The Ohio and its tributary streams, in this upper and northern division, wind through various latitudes, rich vallies, hills and mountains, now settled with an industrious population; and yielding by nature and the labors of man, a vast supply of surplus materials for exchange and commerce. This Northern division is now connected, in the interchanges of commerce, by means of canals with the great Northern lakes and with the cities of New York and Philadelphia, and with the North Atlantic Ocean. This lower or Southern division, by the mouthing of the Ohio into the Mississippi which mouths into the Gulf of Mexico, is connected in the interchange of commerce with the minerals and other treasures of nature and of labor and of art, of the fertile regions watered by the lower Ohio, the Mississippi and Missouri, and the other streams falling into the Gulf; with the city of New Orleans, with the trade to the West India Islands and the whole trade of the South Atlantic, and around Cape Horn into the great Pacific Ocean.

In this vast interchange of surplus productions of these two grand divisions of the upper Ohio connected with the lakes and the North Atlantic, and the lower Ohio connected with the great valley watered by the tributaries of the lower Ohio, connected with the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, the Gulf of Mexico, the South Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans; a vast amount must pass up and down the Ohio river. This break in the river and the navigation, at Louisville, renders it an important point of commercial deposite and exchange.

The city is in the heart of a fertile country; and has a great water power for machinery, now but little used, but which after times will bring into use because of its greater cheapness and security, when compared with steam power.

These advantages render this city capable of employing a very large mercantile, as well as manufacturing, capital, and maintaining a great population of merchants, manufacturers, commission agents, factories, traders and mechanics.

The resident population of this city may be now stated safely, as being about thirty thousand, and in rapid increase; the sojourning and itinerant population may be estimated as equal, annually, to the resident population; with a great profitable commerce now carried on and growing with the increase of population and surplus products of the upper and lower countries.

The employment, capital and commerce corresponding with the natural advantages of position and with the population stated, are visible, in the flat boats and steam boats in port; at the wharfs; commission houses; warehouses; factories; work shops; the wholesale and retail stores; the hotels; and boarding houses; in the streets; and in the large amount of money daily paid in and out, at the Banks and offices of exchange.

The sojourning and itinerant population consists of persons, from various climates, of various pursuits, various habits and modes of life, and consequently exhibiting varieties of diseases, produced by variety of climates, habits, callings and accidents.

This population stationary and sojourning and itinerant, demands, in humanity and good policy, corresponding provisions for the poor, sick and disabled, in houses, infirmaries and hospitals, with the appropriate medical assistance. Such establishments exist in this city, and in addition to the State hospital, the United States have provided for another, not yet completed.

These descriptions of populations and establishments, attracted here by the means of commerce, furnish the essential desiderata; subjects, facts, instances, in great variety, treatments and results; experiments and discoveries; for the advancement of the science of medicine according to the inductive method. Subjects for anatomical dissections, examinations and demonstrations, are here furnished in abundance, to enable the student to perfect himself in anatomy; not only by seeing operations performed, but by taking the knife and the scalpel into his own hand, and by use to perfect himself in anatomy which is the foundation of science in medicine. The number of subjects, and the variety of the causes, which this city supplies in abundance for living surgery and morbid

anatomy, give most important advantages for perfection in anatomy and surgery, for exactness of demonstration and induction.

The infirmaries and hospitals exhibiting so many instances of disease in such varieties afford means of accurate discrimination between diseases; the modes of treatment of cases similar in some of the circumstances, but yet distinct in character, and requiring different treatments. These advantages here abounding in such an eminent degree, afford to students the advantages of theory and practice combined.

These causes combined with the facility of coming and going, communication to and with other places in the valley of the Mississippi, and foreign parts; the climate, the habits and character of the resident population, point to this city as a most appropriate site for a Medical Institute in the valley of the West.

I pass minor detail for fear of trespassing too long upon the patience of the audience.

One prominent subject of gratulation upon the establishment of the Medical Institute, has not escaped my attention. It grows out of the organization of the Institute and the administration of its affairs and purposes, through the president, trustees and faculty. I must pass this subject as delicacy requires. They did not invite me here to speak their commendation, in their own ears. Fame, with her trumpet, has preceded me in that.

Of the effects of the Medical Institute upon the city, I shall speak, not of the pecuniary advantages (large as they might be fairly accounted) but of the moral consequences.

The establishment of the Louisville Medical Institute is justly to be ascribed to the city. No endowment from the State, nor other quarter, than from the city, has been received.

This corporation has munificently contributed from its resources to found and endow this Medical Institute.

The establishment is interesting to humanity. The virtuous fame achieved by the establishment of such an Institute, with such liberality of endowment, is worthy of the ambition

of a commonwealth. It is a monument of the philanthropy and public spirit of the city, which neither the destroying hand of time, nor envy, nor the ruthless force of war can deface. History, the remembrancer of exalted deeds, will write it in her imperishable record: and the gratitude of generation after generation, relieved, cheered, comforted, protected, and enlightened, by the beams of science radiating from the Louisville Medical Institute, will attest, at home and abroad, the benefits which have been conferred on the human family by the generous munificence of the founder.

This Literary establishment founded and endowed for purposes so humane and beneficial to the human family, has a natural tendency to elevate the character of the city at home and abroad. It has the moral tendency to inspire her citizens with a purer zeal in her behalf, with a delectable heart-felt satisfaction and commendable self-respect in calling themselves her citizens. For the truth of these propositions, I appeal to history, to the workings of the human heart in every age, in every clime, and to the sensibilities of every proud heart who loves his country.

Cities and nations being composed of individuals, the character of the city or nation is formed by the actings and doings of the individuals composing the city or nation. The public institutions of the country are good or bad, liberal or groveling, according to the intellectual cultivation of the individuals, who, composing the city or nation, formed those institutions. The intelligence, characters and spirit of the citizens of a city, or State, impress themselves upon the institutions, public buildings and public establishments. These are visible signs and traits by which cities and nations acquire character, fame, or disgrace, just as the actions of individuals give them fame or disgrace. The character of a city or State is reflected from the liberality of her establishments and institutions, and public edifices, and the illustrious characters of her citizens, combined into one whole.

Punic faith is a sarcastic reproach stamped upon Carthage for bad faith and treachery. Beotia was characterized by dullness. Athens for the polish of literature and the fine arts.

The cities of Greece and of Imperial Rome by their mental cultivation, embodied in their buildings, institutions, models of the fine arts, in the works of their poets, historians, orators and philosophers, have acquired a renown which has survived the wreck of time and the ravages of war, and promises to be imperishable.

Independent nations acknowledge no superiority; each claims for itself an equality. But the world, the public sentiment, the judgment of mankind, rank them according to the intelligence, liberality and soul, displayed by their institutions, literature, and illustrious men. Accordingly France, Scotland, England and Germany now take the lead in Europe. Ireland is acknowledged to be a land of genius and flow of soul. But since the annexation to the crown of Great Britain, she has been governed as a conquered colony, by a spirit of political and Hierarchical injustice, oppression and monopoly. Her character now is to be seen solely in the individual characters of her illustrious men. But moral causes are at work. The immutable laws of nature are operating. Injustice and oppression, sooner or later, will work their own destruction. The noble spirits of Grattan, Fitzgerald, Emmet, and of the united Irishmen have not departed from Ireland: they yet animate the sons of Erin: they will snatch the sceptre from tyrants. Ireland will yet stand amongst the independent nations of the earth, redeemed and regenerated, shining in the moral grandeur of the genius, enterprise and natural advantages of the Emerald Isle.

Virginia prides herself on her colleges and universities; upon a long list of her illustrious men; and will not suffer the bones of Washington to be removed from her soil, to be placed in the Capitol of the United States.

Franklin, by the part he sustained in relation to the independence of the United States, and by his philosophical discoveries; particularly in demonstrating the identity of lightning and electricity, so that his points and conductors have added safety to ships at sea, and houses on land from the dangers of lightning, has added renown to his country, and elicited from foreigners, a medal, with the inscription:

"Eripuit cœlo fulmen, sceptrumque tyrannis," ("He snatched from heaven the thunder, and the sceptre from tyrants.")

In illustration of the position, that public institutions and illustrious men reflect fame upon cities, states and nations; I might call the roll of the signers of the Declaration of Independence; I might go through the States, and point to public establishments and public men, dead and living, of whom their respective countrymen are justly proud; because the character and fame of the State which produced them is elevated in the estimation of mankind.

But the immortal genius of Fulton ought not to be passed in silence on this occasion. His successful application of the power of Steam to the propelling of vessels, has conferred incalculable benefits on mankind, and added lustre and renown to his country. His genius has, comparatively, annihilated distance on the Western waters. It has developed the natural advantages of Louisville, and given an impulse to her commerce, which, *under proper direction* will be the means of accumulating immense wealth and great moral power.

This theme of the glory of cities and of nations, is fruitful in examples, and instructive as to the true sources of glory and permanency.

The city of Geneva with a population not greater than Louisville, surrounded by the mountains of Switzerland, has, by her schools and universities, by the impress of mind and morals, secured riches, good order, and happiness, to her citizens; attracted foreigners in numbers to her university; educates annually about one thousand in the higher departments of science, and has spread her fame far and wide. The United States received from Geneva that distinguished citizen Albert Gallatin, who so ably and so long administered the department of the Treasury in the times of the presidents, Jefferson and Madison.

The Medical Institute of Paris is annually crowded with foreigners, not excepting citizens of the United States.

So far as the fame of this city is concerned, the Medical Institute cannot fail to add grace, beauty, and moral grandeur; subjects well understood by Mr. Jefferson, in devoting his

life, after retiring from the Presidency of the U. S., to the building, organizing, and establishing the University of Virginia, located at Charlottesville.

Patriotism is natural to the human heart. It begins at home, looks to the scenery and circumstances immediately around us. It does not, however, consist solely of attachment to the place which gave us birth, to the theatre of boyish sports and pleasures: it takes a more elevated view; it looks to the institutions and establishments which have cherished and protected us; to the fame and distinction, which the monuments of literature and of public spirit, which the sayings and doings of illustrious men, have won for the community. These are public property in which each individual feels that he has a communion. Such monuments of literature, good name and fame, impress upon the heart a refined patriotism, a holy glow, a delectable moral feeling for the place of our residence; not fully known to the individual himself, until journeying into another community, he shall hear his country, the community of his abode, commended or aspersed.

I repeat that the establishment of the Louisville Medical Institute has the moral effect to elevate the character of the city abroad, and to impress upon its citizens a purer and more delectable feeling in her behalf.

Another source of moral power to the city derived from this Institute is not to be overlooked. A number of medical students attracted here from other parts, must bring with them, necessarily, information and literary attainments, preparatory to the study of medicine, not solely useful in that department of science. These, associating with families in the city, forming friendships, holding communications, and emitting rays of intellect, must have great influence and effect in introducing a taste for learning; making an impression, as the drop by often falling, hollows the stone. The public lectures in the several departments, the conversations of the medical students from abroad and at home, the highly cultivated intellects of the faculty of the Medical Institute, imparting their lights within the bosom of the city, may be com-

puted as constituting a body of moral power to give impetus to the intellectual improvement and moral action of the citizens.

These influences to which I have alluded cannot fail, in the aggregate, to elevate the character of this city, in the judgment of the generous, the humane, and the patriotic, at home and abroad.

Fellow-citizens: I have already alluded to the dangers of accumulated wealth, and abject poverty compressed into a dense mass, to which Louisville by reason of the advantages of her position, her great and increasing commerce and population, stationary, sojourning and itinerant, is eminently exposed. Nature operating by general laws prescribed to matter and mind, and not by partial laws, whilst giving to you the great advantages of local position, has likewise exposed you to the dangers to which these temptations may lead. But nature's God in perfect benevolence and moral excellence, hath placed the preventive within your reach. Ignorance, lust of riches, loose indulgence of animal appetites, and abject poverty, in two classes, are the poisons. The cultivation of science, knowledge, and morals, are the remedies. Great wealth, great poverty, and a large population densely compressed within the city, but divided into the two classes will come, from the nature and advantages of your local position. But it is in the power of prudence and forecast, to ensure a class composed of men of knowledge, science, and morals sufficient in number, to execute the laws, maintain a sound, moral public sentiment, to overpower ignorant, audacious, insolent wealth, or crafty, fraudulent, ignorant poverty, or both extremes combined. Mental cultivation, humanity, morals, science, knowledge, justice and the benevolent affections, are the regulators and preservers. The ways of virtue lead to everlasting happiness. The ways of vice lead to misery and destruction.

The bane and antidote are both before you.

Men are too apt to forget, in prosperity the inconstancy of fortune, in health the means of preserving it, as well as the sympathies and offices of benevolence due to the afflicted.

But a government is bound in benevolence and sacred duty to the community and the general welfare, to look to the future, to take all prudent precautions against distempers, epidemical, contagious and infectious, whether incident to the body natural, or to the body politic. Be warned by the cities which once existed in opulence and splendor, but which now can be traced only by their mournful ruins, the haunts of beasts and birds.

Let us resolve wisely and do our duty to God, ourselves and posterity. Let us resolve for ourselves, let us instill it into the minds of our children, that the city as she increases in population, commerce and wealth, must enlarge and perfect her establishments for humanity and mental cultivation. By such means she may increase to a full orb of intellectual lustre, imparting the rays of knowledge, science, morals and happiness. The end is attainable by united will, prudence and perseverance. The consummation is worthy of generous efforts, and of the sublimest ambition.

May such be the elevated dignity and fair fame of the city of Louisville!

May she, with her Medical Institute, so stand on high as a bright example and shining star in the West, until the Sun himself shall grow dim with age, and Time shall be no more!

Hon. G. M. Bibb

Oration